FW: Post Cabinet - Minister Mendicino - February 1 2022

From:	"Roy, Cecely" <cecely.roy@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>
To:	"Cohen, Alexander" <alexander.cohen@ps-sp.gc.ca>
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Sent: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 1:45 PM
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Subject: Post Cabinet - Minister Mendicino - February 1 2022
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DATE/DATE: February 1, 2022 1:00 p.m. EST
LOCATION/ENDROIT: Outside Room 309-N, West Block
PRINCIPAL(S)/PRINCIPAUX: Marco E. L. Mendicino, Minister of Public Safety.
SUBJECT/SUJET: Minister of Public Safety Marco E. L. Mendicino speaks to the media after a cabinet meeting.
Question: Minister, how are you?
Hon. Marco Mendicino: Oh, you know. I'm very happy to see you.
Question: It's nice to see you too. A city councillor for the area has come out and said, well, actually, Parliament Hill is in charge, the RCMP are in charge of that, PPS (ph) are in charge of that and Wellington is too. Is there any consideration from a federal perspective to have the RCMP or PPS (ph) work to move protesters out of downtown?
Hon. Marco Mendicino: Well, just first, I would highlight that, you know, Ottawa Police are the police of jurisdiction when it comes to Wellington Street and the city generally, but federal public safety partners including the RCMP, PPS, (ph) sergeant of arms have been in constant communication with Ottawa Police.
I think that you've seen, you know, a really coordinated and concerted effort to ensure that there's public safety. We — we recognize obviously that there are — there is still visibility of — of the convoys and the truckers on Wellington Street, and

as for any decisions that will be taken, those need to be taken independently by police services.
Question: The former police chief in Ottawa has come out and said this isn't a protest anymore, this is an occupation. Do you think that's a fair assessment of what's going on right now?
Hon. Marco Mendicino: I think it's fair to say that many Ottawa residents have suffered a lot of not just inconvenience, but interruption to their ability to get to and from work, to be able to take their kids to and from school and home again, and you know, those are things that I know that are weighing very heavily into the decisions which are being taken independently by, again, the police services and not by elected officials. But — but I do think that there — there is absolutely a high degree of concern from those residents who are living here and who work downtown and — and not only downtown, but beyond. And so, we need to be sensitive to that.
But again, as far as enforcement actions, those will be taken by — independently by police.
Question: There's open fires, there's barbecues, there's people with campers, people who have been parked there for multiple days. This isn't like a protest anymore. Those people are essentially living in downtown Ottawa outside. This is clearly an occupation.
Hon. Marco Mendicino: Well, this is what I think the mayor has said, Jim Watson, which is — which is that he's certainly hearing and I think experiencing a lot of the frustration of the residents, and I think we can all empathize — and especially for those of us who work in the downtown core, and — and look, understanding that there is a right to demonstrate and to express a certain point of view is one thing. But — but where there are, you know, are unacceptable incidents and, you know, confrontation, etc., those decisions do need to be taken independently by police officers. (inaudible) best action.
Unidentified Male Speaker: One more question, okay?
Question: What is this costing the federal taxpayer? Like, because you know, the RCMP is involved. It's costing Ottawa Police 800,000 dollars a day. How much is this costing the feds?
Hon. Marco Mendicino: Well, I mean, the first thing I — I would say is that it's important that — that we do make the appropriate allocations and — and resources and investments into federal public safety, because that's our top priority. People need to be able to move about their daily lives knowing that they're going to be safe, and when you have a significant demonstration like the convoy, you know, that is a particularly important moment. So that support will be there, and I think what I would just assure to you is that as far as the — as far as Ottawa Police and — and you know, the mayor are concerned, as I said before, they are expressing what I think are the legitimate concerns of residents who have had their lives interrupted, and there will be ongoing communication between all levels of government, including police services, and the decisions that are taken by police as to how to respond to the convoy will be made in (inaudible).
Question: This is costing us a lot.
Hon. Marco Mendicino: Thanks very much. Thank you very much.
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